

CLAIMS

1. A dispenser for wet wipes stacked within a container having a top surface, a raised portion having predetermined dimensions, and including a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes, said dispenser comprising a support member having an open area whereby said top surface of said container can be juxtaposed with said support member with said raised portion maintained within said open area, and a base portion supporting said support member with respect to a selected surface on which said base portion is mounted, whereby said wet wipes can be individually removed from said container through said open area of said support member and each of said wet wipes is maintained in a moist condition.

2. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein said wet wipes can be individually removed in a generally horizontal or downward direction.

3. The dispenser of claim 2 wherein said wet wipes can be individually removed in a generally downward direction.

4. The dispenser of claim 3 wherein said base portion is disposed below said support member, whereby said selected surface comprises a substantially horizontal surface.

5. The dispenser of claim 3 wherein said base portion is disposed adjacent to said support member, whereby said selected surface comprises a substantially vertical surface.

6. The dispenser of claim 3 wherein said open area has dimensions which substantially correspond to said predetermined dimensions.

7. The dispenser of claim 3 wherein said support member comprises a first support member portion and including a second support member portion substantially perpendicular to said first support member portion, whereby said container can be retained in position between said first support member portion and said second support member portion.

8. The dispenser of claim 3 wherein said support member and said base portion have a unitary construction.

9. The dispenser of claim 3 including at least one heater for maintaining said wet wipes at a predetermined temperature.

10. The dispenser of claim 7 including a thermostat for controlling said at least one heater.

11. The dispenser of claim 7 wherein said at least one heater is disposed in said support member.

12. The dispenser of claim 7 wherein said at least one heater comprises a resistance heater.

13. The dispenser of claim 7 wherein said at least one heater comprises a first heater portion on one side of said open area and a second heater portion of a second side of said open area.

14. The dispenser of claim 7 including actuation means for actuating said heater.

15. The dispenser of claim 12 wherein said actuation means comprises a switch.

16. The dispenser of claim 13 wherein said switch is disposed in said support member.

17. The dispenser of claim 14 wherein said switch is disposed at a location extending into said open area, whereby the presence of said raised portion of said container in said open area actuates said switch.

18. The dispenser of claim 11 wherein said first and second heater portions comprise a plurality of heating coils.

19. The dispenser of claim 5 wherein said second support member comprises a substantially rectangular configuration comprising four wall members for substantially surrounding said container.

20. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein said raised portion of said container includes a closable lid for sealing said dispensing opening.

21. The dispenser of claim 20 wherein said closable lid comprises a substantially rigid plastic material.

22. A dispensing system for wet wipes comprising a container including a stacked plurality of wet wipes and having a top surface including a raised area containing a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes from said container, and a dispenser comprising a support member having an open area whereby said top surface of said container can be juxtaposed with said support member with said raised portion maintained within said open area, and a base portion supporting said support member with respect to a selected surface on which said base portion is mounted, whereby said wet wipes can be individually removed from said container through said open area of said support member and each of said wet wipes is maintained in a moist condition.

23. The dispensing system of claim 22 wherein said wet wipes can be individually removed in a generally horizontal or downward direction.

24. The dispensing system of claim 23 wherein said wet wipes can be individually removed in a generally downward direction.

25. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said base portion is disposed below said support member, whereby said selected surface comprises a substantially horizontal surface.

26. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said base portion is disposed adjacent to said support member, whereby said selected surface comprises a substantially vertical surface.

27. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said open area has dimensions substantially corresponding to said predetermined dimensions.

28. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said support member comprises a first support member portion and including a second support member portion substantially

perpendicular to said first support member portion whereby said container can be retained in position between said first support member portion and said second support member portion.

29. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said support member and said base portion have a unitary construction.

30. The dispensing system of claim 24 including at least one heater for maintaining said wet wipes at a predetermined temperature.

31. The dispensing system of claim 30 including a thermostat for controlling said at least one heater.

32. The dispensing system of claim 30 wherein said at least one heater is disposed in said support member.

33. The dispensing system of claim 30 wherein said at least one heater comprises a resistance heater.

34. The dispensing system of claim 30 wherein said at least one heater comprises a first heater portion on one side of said open area and a second heater portion on the second side open area.

35. The dispensing system of claim 30 including actuation means for actuating said heater.

36. The dispensing system of claim 35 wherein said actuation means comprises a switch.

37. The dispensing system of claim 36 wherein said switch is disposed in said support member.

38. The dispensing system of claim 37 wherein said switch is disposed at a location extending into said open area, whereby the presence of said raised portion of said container in said open area actuates said switch.

39. The dispensing system of claim 34 wherein said first and second heater portions comprise a plurality of heating coils.

40. The dispensing system of claim 28 wherein said second support member comprises a substantially rectangular

configuration comprising four wall members for substantially surrounding said container.

41. The dispensing system of claim 24 wherein said raised portion of said container includes a closable lid for sealing said dispensing opening.

42. The dispensing system of claim 41 wherein said closable lid comprises a substantially rigid plastic material.

43. A dispenser for wet wipes stacked within a container having a top surface, a bottom surface, a raised portion having predetermined dimensions, and including a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes, said dispenser comprising a support member having an open area whereby said top surface of said container can be juxtaposed with said support member with said raised portion maintained within said open area, a base portion supporting said support member with respect to a selected surface on which said base portion is mounted, and pressure means acting on said bottom surface of said container for urging said wet wipes towards said dispensing opening, whereby as said wet wipes are individually removed from said container said container reduces in size.

44. The dispenser of claim 43 wherein said pressure means comprises spring means.

45. The dispenser of claim 43 wherein said support member is disposed substantially vertically whereby said wet wipes are individually removed from said container substantially horizontally.

46. A dispensing system for wet wipes comprising a container including a stacked plurality of wet wipes and having a bottom surface and a top surface whereby a raised area containing a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes from said container, and a dispenser comprising a support means having an open area whereby said top surface of said container can be juxtaposed with said support member

with said raised portion mounted within said open area, a base portion supporting said support member with respect to a selected surface on which said base portion is mounted, and pressure means acting on said bottom surface of said container for urging said wet wipes towards said dispensing opening, whereby as said wet wipes are individually removed from said container said container reduces in size.

47. The dispensing system of claim 46 wherein said pressure means comprises spring means.

48. The dispensing system of claim 46 wherein said support member is disposed substantially vertically whereby said wet wipes are individually removed from said container substantially horizontally.

49. A dispenser for wet wipes stacked within a container having a top surface and a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes, said dispenser comprising a first member facing generally downwardly and including an open area, a second member above said first member whereby said container can be disposed between said first member and said second member with said dispensing opening in said container juxtaposed with said open area of said first member, and a hinge member interconnecting said first member with said second member for exerting pressure on said container disposed between said first member and said second member, whereby said wet wipes can be individually removed in a generally downward direction from said container through said open area of said first member and moisture within said container is caused to flow towards said open area to moisten each of said individually removed wet wipes.

50. The dispenser of claim 49 including pressure means acting on said second member for urging said second member towards said first member, whereby as said wet wipes are individually removed from said container and said container

reduces in size, said second member remains in contact with and exerts pressure on said container.

51. The dispenser of claim 50 wherein said pressure means comprises a spring member.

52. The dispenser of claim 49 wherein said first member includes a first portion including said open area and a second portion substantially perpendicular to said first portion, whereby said container can be retained in position between said first and second portions of said first member.

53. The dispenser of claim 52 including a base portion supporting said first member.

54. The dispenser of claim 53 wherein said base portion and said first member have a unitary construction.

55. The dispenser of claim 49 including at least one heater for maintaining said wet wipes at a predetermined temperature.

56. The dispenser of claim 55 including a thermostat for controlling said at least one heater.

57. The dispenser of claim 55 wherein said at least one heater is disposed in said first member.

58. The dispenser of claim 55 wherein said at least one heater comprises a resistance heater.

59. The dispenser of claim 55 wherein said at least one heater comprises a first heater portion on one side of said open area and a second heater portion on a second side of said open area.

60. The dispenser of claim 55 including activation means for activating said heater.

61. The dispenser of claim 60 wherein said activation means comprises a switch.

62. The dispenser of claim 61 wherein said switch is disposed in said first member.

63. The dispenser of claim 62 wherein said switch is disposed at a location extending into said open area, whereby

the presence of said container in said dispenser activates said switch.

64. The dispenser of claim 49 wherein said open area comprises a slot in said first member.

65. The dispenser of claim 59 wherein said first and second heater portions comprise a plurality of heating coils.

66. A dispensing system for wet wipes comprising a container including a stacked plurality of wet wipes including a top portion having a dispensing opening for individual removal of said wet wipes from said container, and a dispenser comprising a first member facing generally downwardly including an open area, said container disposed on said first member with said top portion of said container in contact with said first member and said dispensing opening juxtaposed with said open area of said first member, a second member disposed above said first member, with said container disposed between said first member and said second member, and a hinge member interconnecting said first member with said second member for exerting pressure on said container, whereby said wet wipes can be removed in a generally downward direction through said open area of said first member and moisture within said container is caused to flow towards said open area to moisten each of said individually removed wet wipes.

67. The dispensing system of claim 66 including pressure means acting on said second member for urging said second member towards said first member, whereby as said wet wipes are individually removed from said container and said container reduces in size, said second member retains contact with and pressure on said container.

68. The dispensing system of claim 67 wherein said pressure means comprises a spring member.

69. The dispensing system of claim 67 wherein said first member includes a first portion including said open area and a second portion substantially perpendicular to said first

portion, whereby said container can be retained in position between said first and second portions of said first member.

70. The dispensing system of claim 69 including a base portion supporting said first member.

71. The dispensing system of claim 70 wherein said base portion and said first member comprise a unitary construction.

72. The dispensing system of claim 66 including at least one heater for maintaining said wet wipes at a predetermined temperature.

73. The dispensing system of claim 72 including a thermostat for maintaining said heater at said predetermined temperature.

74. The dispensing system of claim 73 wherein said at least one heater is disposed in said first member.

75. The dispensing system of claim 72 wherein said at least one heater comprises a resistance heater.

76. The dispensing system of claim 74 wherein said at least one heater comprises a first heater portion on one side of said open area and a second heater portion on the second side of said open area.

77. The dispensing system of claim 74 including actuating means for actuating said heater.

78. The dispensing system of claim 77 wherein said actuating means comprises a switch.

79. The dispensing system of claim 78 wherein said switch is disposed in said first member.

80. The dispensing system of claim 79 wherein said switch is disposed at a location extending into said open area, whereby the presence of said container in said dispenser actuates said switch.

81. The dispensing system of claim 67 wherein said open area comprises a slot in said first member.

82. The dispensing system of claim 76 wherein said first and second heater portions comprise a plurality of heating coils.